

Message Text

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10
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 180349Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4797

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 28720

FOL TEL SEN T ACTION BANGKOK INFO VIENTIANE CHIANG MAI FROM
UDORN OCT 15 REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L UDORN 6286

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MILI LA TH
SUBJECT: REPORT ON LAO RESISTANCE IN SAYABOURY PROVINCE AND RELATED
E.O. 11652:

REF: MA. VIENTIANE 2385 B. CONVERSATION WITH POL/CON
BROH KAHN IN BANGKOK 10/5/76.

SUMMARY: OFFICIALS IN LOEI PROVINCE HAVE TOLD US OF REPORTS OF
SUCCESSFUL LAO RESISTANCE ACTIVITY IN SAYABOURY PROVINCE.
OFFICIALS ALSO CONFIRMED SHOOTING INCIDENT ON MEKONG RIVER
INVOLVING LAO BARGE. MROU BOAT STATION COMMANDER REPORTS TRAVEL
ON MEKONG RIVER BORDERING CHIANG KHAN DISTRICT IS STILL UNSAFE.
END SUMMARY.

1. DURING TRIP BY CONSUL TO LOEI PROVINCE SEPTEMBER 16
GOVERNOR AND A DISTRICT OFFICER
MENTIONED UNCONFIRMED JUST RECEIVED REPORT THAT A LAO RESISTANCE
UNIT HAD TAKEN OVER SAYABOURY PROVINCE CAPITOL AND RAISED OLD RLG
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FLAG OVER TOWN. REPORT SEEMED FARFETCHED AND, IN ABSENCE OF ANY

CORROBORATING EVIDENCE, CONSUL DID NOT REPORT IT.

2. IN COURSE OF CONSUL'S VISIT TO CHIANG KHAN DISTRICT, LOEI PROVINCE, OCTOBER 12 DISTRICT OFFICER STATED THAT HE HAD ALSO HEARD STORY OF LAO RESISTANCE TAKEOVER IN SAYABOURY BUT VERSION OF INCIDENT PROVIDED BY HIS LAOTIAN SOURCES IS THAT RESISTANCE UNIT ONLY ATTACKED AND OVERRAN A PATHET LAO (PL) MILITARY POSITION AND DID NOT RPT NOT OCCUPY PROVINCE CAPITOL. DISTRICT OFFICER ALSO SAID THAT ACCORDING TO HIS SOURCES APPROXIMATELY THREE QUARTERS OF POPULATION AROUND LAO TOWN OF SANNAKHAM, LOCATED ACROSS MEKONG RIVER FROM CHIANG KHAN DISTRICT CAPITOL, ARE SYMPATHETIC TO RESISTANCE CAUSE.

3. COMMANDER OF MARINE POLICE DETACHMENT IN CHIANG KHAN INFORMED CONSUL OCTOBER 12 THAT ONE OF HIS PATROL UNITS CAPTURED THREE PL SOLDIERS OCTOBER 7 ON THAI SIDE OF BORDER 10 KILOMETERS SOUTH OF DISTRICT CAPITAL WHO TOLD HIM THAT A PL BATTALION OF 120 MEN IS ENCAMPED IN SANNAKHAM. CAPTURED SOLDIERS DID NOT RPT NOT INDICATE WHETHER BATTALION WAS ON PERMANENT STATION OR RECENTLY DEPLOYED IN RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE ACTIVITY.

4. BOTH DISTRICT OFFICER AND MARINE POLICE COMMANDER IN SEPARATE INTERVIEWS STATED THAT THEY ARE AWARE OF INCIDENT REPORTED REFTEL A CONCERNING LAO BARGE BUT THEY CLAIM IT OCCURED ALONG BORDER OF SANGKHOM DISTRICT, NONG KHAI PROVINCE. BOTH SOURCES TACITLY ADMITTED THAT THAI PERSONNEL FIRED ON BARGE.

5. DISTRICT OFFICER AND MARINE POLICE COMMANDER ALSO SAID THEY HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF THAI MIPITARY FORCES UCTIVE IN DISTRICT AT PRESENT. HOWEVER, LATTER MPTED THAT AN RTA COMPANY FROM PROVINCE CAPITOL WAS DEPLOYED FOR A WEEK OR TWO AT POINT ALONG BORDER IN NORTHERN PART OF DISTRICT WHERE MEKONG RIVER CURVES NORTHWARD FORMINH#EASTERN BORDER OF SAYABOURY PROVINCE. HE INDICATED THIS TYPE OF DEPLOYMENT IS PART OF NORMAL PATTERN OF THAI MILITARY ACTIVITY.

6. MROU PETTY OFFICER WHO COMMANDS BOAT STATION IN CHIANG KHAN, CONSISTING OF TWO THIRTY-FIVE FT PATROL BOATS (PBR) STATED THAT NINETY KILOMETERS OF MEKONG RIVER BORDERING DISTRICT WHICH HE PATROLS IS STILL UNSAFE FOR NORMAL COMMERCIAL BOAT TRAFFIC. HE
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CLAIMED THAT HIS PATROL BOATS HAVE BEEN FIRED ON BY PL SECURITY FORCES FOUR TIMES THUS FAR THIS YEAR. HENSTATED THAT HIS BOATS RETURNED FIRE ON EACH OCCASION. PETTY OFFICER SHOWED CONSUL WHAT HE SAID WERE IMPACT HOLES FROM PL RIFLE FIRE ON SUPER-STRUCTURE OF ONE OF HIS BOATS.
FINNEY

UNQUOTE

WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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